



GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: **February 9, 2016**

TITLE: **Study of Proposed Changes to Governing Board Policy IKF (Graduation Requirements) and Accompanying Administrative Regulations**

BACKGROUND:

Last year, the Governing Board considered an appeal from the parents of a student who was initially denied high school credit for mathematics coursework taken during middle school at a non-district middle school. The initial denial of credit was made consistent with long-standing district practice at the high school level to only extend credit for high school courses taught at the middle school level by secondary certificated teachers who are highly qualified in the given content area (Mathematics or Spanish). This standard was in place to ensure that students enrolling in high school (and receiving credit for middle school work) are sufficiently prepared to move on to higher level content in high school.

The District, of course, ensures that its own middle school students are appropriately prepared by requiring that any high school course taught for high school credit in middle school is taught by its own qualifying personnel who also follow district curriculum that scaffolds in appropriate scope and sequence with the higher level high school courses in the content areas.

In the situation of external middle schools, however, the District has no control over the professional preparation, ability and content knowledge of the teacher who provides the high school content in middle school. And, anecdotally, the District consistently sees many transferring students from external middle schools struggle in higher level content after taking high school courses in middle school, as well as *fail* the end-of-course assessment for the course for which high school credit is sought.

The changes primarily presented by this item, in Administrative Regulation IKF-RC, incorporates site level practices that have been effective in assuring student success in high school for many years by assessing student readiness for higher level content. This revision is consistent with state law on the matter of awarding credit for external/transfer credit.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is presented for the Board's initial study and discussion. The School Operations Department will be able to provide some additional information and rationale for the revisions presented.

INITIATED BY:

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: February 8, 2016

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent